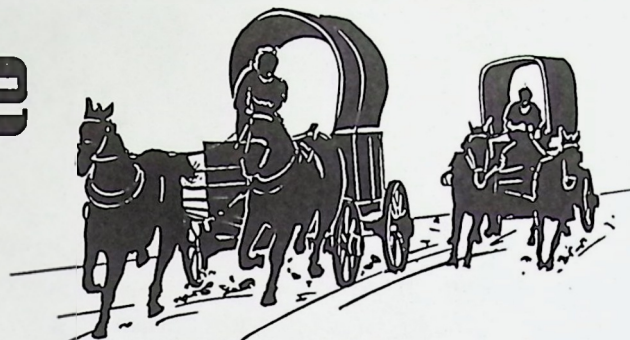


The Historacle

The Official Newsletter of the

Talent Historical Society

Where The Past Meets The Future



206 East Main, Suite C • P.O. Box 582 • Talent, Oregon 97540 • 541/512-8838

March 2001

WOMEN MAKE A DIFFERENCE! CELEBRATING TALENT WOMEN SUNDAY MARCH 18—NOON TO 3:00

The Talent Historical Society will celebrate its third annual *"In Honor of Talent Women"* in two weeks. A noon luncheon (*we will furnish the vegetarian main dish, please bring a salad or side dish*) will be followed by a 1:00 Chautauqua lecture by Judy McGraw on Women and Technology, "Why Not the Outhouse?" At 2:00 we will have an award ceremony honoring Agnes "Tao-why-wee" Pilgrim, Evelyn Nye, Manuela Marney, Robby Miller, Rosemary Logan and Katherine Harris. In the museum will be an exhibit honoring outstanding women of the past, Lois Yockel and Mae Lowe. The program will also feature exhibits by local women artists and authors. **Please come** to the Talent Community Center and help us celebratc the achievements of these wonderful women.



Mae Lowe



Evelyn Nye

Photo Courtesy
Medford Mail Tribune



Suzanne Seiber



Lois Yockel



Judy McGraw
Chautauqua Lecturer

Women's History Month Program March 18, 2001 • Talent Community Center

- | | |
|------|--|
| Noon | Potluck Luncheon—bring a salad; the vegetarian entree is provided. |
| 1:00 | Chautauqua Lecture—featuring Judy McGraw, courtesy of the Oregon Council for the Humanities. |
| 2:00 | Award Ceremony honoring Talent women. |

QUILTING PROGRAM

Forty people gathered at the Talent Community Center on Saturday, February 17 to enjoy a slide presentation on "Heritage Quilts" which described such works of art as the Log Cabin, Ohio Star, Nine Patch, Dresden Plate and Wedding Ring. Following the presentation, Sue McCracken of McQuilts in Talent conducted a beginning workshop on quilting. On display were several locally crafted quilts.

Sue McCracken will be forming a group of quilters to make a quilt to be raffled at the Talent Harvest Festival in the fall. The proceeds from the raffle will benefit Talent Historical Society. The first quilting meeting will be May 16 at 6:30 p.m. at McQuilts. Call Sue at 535-2573 for more information.



JESSE JAMES RIDES AGAIN

The THS exhibit for January and February was a collection of photos, books, and other memorabilia, of Jesse James. As far as anyone knows, Jesse never came to the Rogue Valley, but he does have a few descendants living in the area.

Also included in the exhibit was a handwritten document written by former Jackson County sheriff ----- who encountered Black Bart on the Siskiyou and talked him into giving up his gun so he wouldn't have to arrest him. A descendant of the sheriff lives in Talent.

The exhibit, which got media attention from at least two TV stations and the *Medford Mail Tribune*, also drew in record numbers of visitors to the museum.



FRY BREAD RECIPE TOUTED

Fry bread is a tradition for Native American families here in the Northwest and across the nation. The creation of this unique bread was most likely the result of the creative merger of the culinary traditions of two cultures. Pioneers and Native Americans found that frying bread in a skillet saves time and preparation steps. Fry bread travels well, making it ideal now for hunting trips, and was just as ideal for both pioneer and Indian. Here is a decent Fry Bread recipe:

FRY BREAD

3 cups all-purpose flour
1 tablespoon baking powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 teaspoon sugar
1 1/4 cups whole milk
2 tablespoons shortening, melted
1/3 cup cooking oil for deep-fat frying

Step 1: In a large mixing bowl combine flour, baking powder, salt and sugar. Add milk and melted shortening while stirring slowly with a wooden spoon. (The mixture may appear dry.)

Step 2: Turn mixture out onto a lightly floured surface and knead dough until smooth, about 1 minute (be careful not to overwork the dough). Roll or pat dough to approximately 1/4 inch thick. Cut into 3 1/2 inch circles.

Step 3: In a deep skillet heat 3/4 inch oil to 375 degrees. Carefully add several rounds of the dough. Cook for 3 minutes or until golden brown and puffy, turning once.

Step 4: Fry Bread may be served plain or with fruit, vegetable or meat fillings. Makes about 12 rounds (servings).

Note: Fry Bread is very similar to Mexican sopapillas, probably due to more culture-merging.

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM GETS OLD-TIMERS TALKING

Did you know that some folks less than a hundred years ago thought that indoor bathrooms were disgusting? They felt that only pigs messed in their own house!

Did you know that when Harry and David first started growing pears, they grew so many of them that they didn't know what to do with them all?

Did you know that one area family, during the Depression, had a bathtub carved from a cedar log?

If you could read some of the oral histories that have been recorded recently, you would have learned all these things and a lot more. New volunteer Joe Cowley has been out with the tape recorder getting all kinds of interesting stories on tape to preserve in the THS archives. Museum director Marian Angele has also been taking advantage of opportune moments by turning on the tape recorder when some of the older folks congregate in the THS office and start swapping stories.

The THS board and staff feel that preserving these stories of the "good old days" is a very important part of our mission to collect and preserve the history of Talent. Too quickly the older folks with memories of yesteryear are passing away, taking with them forever the stories, folklore and remembrances of times past.

The oral histories are first recorded on tape by one of the Society volunteers. The tapes are transcribed, edited, reprinted with corrections, then filed for public research. The tapes are archived for protection.

Doris Malkmus of the Iowa Rural Women's Project which operates out of the University of Iowa Library says something quite significant about oral history. She points out, "People think of oral history as the stories of 100-year-olds. [But] There's not much record of more recent changes in . . . families and communities." The Iowa project has assembled scrapbooks, photos, biographical sketches, speeches, club minutes and programs, household accounts, farm records, journals,



diaries, and letters to bolster knowledge about how life was lived at some point in time. She warns that "we may be overlooking the historical significance of everyday items documenting the lives of rural women in contemporary times."

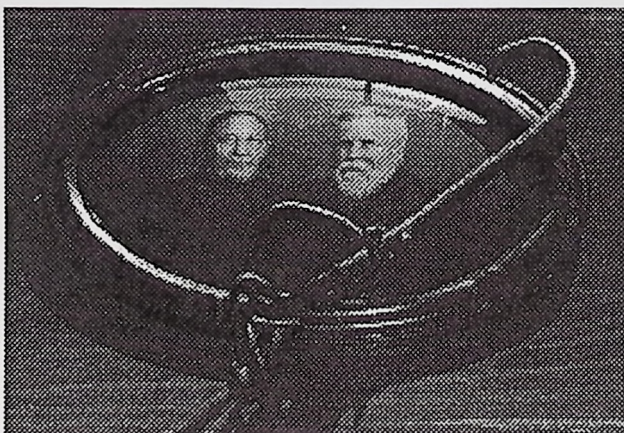
What is true for rural women is just as true of those of us who live in places like Talent. "Often in years past, many families did not treasure the stories and objects owned by the women in their families," says Evelyn Birkby, a Shenandoah, Iowa homemaker.

Here in Talent much community social change has been wrought by women's groups and clubs. However, the history of those clubs is contained only in the memories of their members and in the minutes of their organizations...and if those minutes are lost...and the women age to the point of forgetfulness, key parts of Talent history will be lost. Cheryl Tevis, a farm issues editor for *Successful Farming*, says that women especially "need to celebrate significant accomplishments as partners, caretakers, and champions of our communities. Our children deserve access to this rich legacy of resilience and courage."

These are some of the reasons why the Talent Historical Society conducts oral interviews. Our children deserve access to the world we have lived in and helped shape...even here in Talent.

If you would like to share your memories of Talent and the Rogue Valley the way it was, or if you know someone who has some great stories to tell, please let us know. We are always looking for a variety of stories, of school days, former businesses, prominent families, any type of history that pertains to Talent and the surrounding area. We focus on Talent, but realize that the Talent is part of the Rogue Valley and a part of the history of the valley as a whole.

Please call us at the office or drop by and tell us to turn on the tape recorder!



LOGO DESIGN: AN ARTISTIC DISCUSSION

The logo design that appears on the back of this newsletter, and on the Talent Historical Society stationery, T-shirts and publications may need a bit of explanation. The logo depicts the surrounding mountains to the south of Talent, crowned by Mount Wagner (the official name is Wagner Butte) which was named in honor of pioneer Jacob Wagner. The stream which flows through the center of the design is Wagner Creek which issues from the slopes of Wagner Butte. The evergreen trees depict the forests that surround us—and the hills up Wagner and Anderson Creeks were logged early in the settlement of the valley, providing much of the milled lumber that now can be seen as the historical homes in the valley. The lone oak in the center commemorates a dietary mainstay for the valley's earlier owners, the Native Americans.

The orchards represent the changing horticultural activity in the Bear Creek valley, commemorating the apple, peach, cherry, and pear orchards for which the valley has historically been known. Perhaps the farthest dots on the orchard site indicate the newest plantings of wine grapes. The plowed land next to the representation of Fort Wagner can be thought of as a depiction of the wheat crops which were the first economic mainstay of the pioneer farmers in the Wagner Creek valley. Eli K. "Uncle Joe" Anderson is credited with beginning the grain industry in the Rogue Valley—and he has been honored by having a creek and a butte to the southwest both named Anderson.

The stockade fort shows the Fort Wagner period of our on-going history—the Rogue River Indian wars that sporadically flared from 1852 to 1856. The stockade was erected around the home of Jacob Wagner and housed frightened settlers from all over the southern end of the Bear Creek Valley when hostilities between whites and the aggrieved Takelma bands erupted into mutual violence.

The building at the base of the logo is the present Talent Community Center, built in 1899 and served for eleven years as the Talent school; it then became the city's property and has been the site of multiple community activities ever since. Notice that the picture does not show the addition where the Talent Historical Society museum is now located. We wanted our logo to be historical, and were sure today's citizens would be able to find the museum even if it was not immortalized on the logo.

Interested Talent folk can secure a Talent Historical Society T-shirt, in a choice of seven colors, and wear Talent History, for the logo is on the T-shirt. Cost? Only \$14.00. These are available at the Talent Historical Society Sales Shoppe in the Talent Community Center.



The **Historacle** is published quarterly by the
Talent Historical Society
P.O. Box 582 / 206 E. Main Street
Talent Community Center • Talent, Oregon 97540

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Lynn Newbry
Vice President	John Morrison
Secretary	Katherine Harris
Treasurer	Helen Seiber
Directors	Bob Casebeer
	Lorna DeYoung
	Brent Florendo
	Wanda Gibbs
	Margaret Van Natta

MUSEUM STAFF

Museum Director	Marian Angele, Ph.D.
Office Manager	Alice Ray
Volunteer Office Assistants	Gennell Williams
	Marguerite Marler
	Lorraine Mussack

TITLED VOLUNTEERS

Curator/Registrar	Rosemary Bevel
Oral Historians	Sadie Williams
	Joe Cowley
	Nancy Fox
Photographers	Gia Roland
	Steve Ray/Majestic West
Newsletter Layout/ Graphic Design	Alice Ray/Majestic West

Comments & letters may be sent to the Editor, **The Historacle**, by mail or by e-mail <talenth@jeffnet.org>. Members of the Society receive **The Historacle** free with membership.

HOW MANY DO YOU REMEMBER?

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Candy cigarettes | 17. Metal ice cube trays, with levers |
| 2. Wax coke-shaped bottles with colored sugar water inside. | 18. Mimeograph paper |
| 3. Soda pop machines that dispensed glass bottles. | 19. Blue flash bulbs |
| 4. Coffee shops with tableside juke boxes | 20. Beanie and Cecil |
| 5. Blackjack, Clove and Beemans chewing gum | 21. Roller skate keys |
| 6. Home milk delivery in glass bottles, with cardboard stoppers. | 22. Cork pop guns |
| 7. Party lines. | 23. Drive-ins |
| 8. Newsreels before the movie. | 24. Studebakers...Edsels |
| 9. P. F. Flyers | 25. Wash tub wringers |
| 10. Butch wax | 26. The Fuller Brush man |
| 11. Telephone numbers with a word prefix ... (VALley 6-3819) | 27. Reel-to-reel tape recorders |
| 12. Peashooters. | 28. Tinkertoys |
| 13. Howdy Doody | 29. The Erector Set |
| 14. 45 RPM Records...78 RPM records | 30. The Fort Apache Playset |
| 15. S&H Green Stamps | 31. Lincoln Logs |
| 16. Hi-fi's | 32. 15 cent McDonald hamburgers |
| | 33. 5 cent packs of baseball cards...with that awful pink slab of bubblegum |
| | 34. Penny candy |
| | 35. 28 cent-a-gallon gasoline |

I WANT TO GO BACK TO THE TIME WHEN.....

Decisions were made by going "eeny-meeny-miney-mo"...Mistakes were corrected by simply exclaiming, "do over!"..."Race issue" meant arguing about who ran the fastest...Money issues were handled by whoever was the banker in "Monopoly"...Catching the fireflies could happily occupy an entire evening...It wasn't odd to have two or three "best" friends...Being old referred to anyone over 20...The net on a tennis court was the perfect height to play volleyball and rules didn't matter...The worst thing you could catch from the opposite sex was "cooties"...It was magic when dad would "remove" his thumb...It was unbelievable that dodgeball wasn't an Olympic event...Having a weapon in school, meant being caught with a slingshot. Nobody was prettier than mom...Scrapes and bruises were kissed and made better...It was a big deal to finally be tall enough to ride the "big people" rides at the amusement park...A foot of snow was a dream come true...Abilities were discovered because of a "double-dog-dare"...Saturday morning cartoons weren't 30-minute ads for action figures...No shopping trip was complete, unless a new toy was brought home..."Oly-oly-oxen-free" made perfect sense...Spinning around, getting dizzy and falling down was cause for giggles...The worst embarrassment was being picked last for a team...War was a card game...Water balloons were the ultimate weapons...Baseball cards in the spokes transformed any bike into a motorcycle...Taking drugs meant orange-flavored chewable aspirin...Ice cream was considered a basic food group...Older siblings were the worst tormentors, but also the fiercest protectors...If you can remember most or all of these, then you have lived!!!! Pass this on to anyone who may need a break from their "grown up" life....I double dog dare ya!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

THS is going to put together a cookbook to have for sale in our Sales Shoppe. We invite you to submit your favorite recipes to be included in our cookbook. Old-time recipes are especially desirable. Type or print clearly your recipe, include your name, and drop off at the THS office, or mail to us. Thanks!

A TRIBUTE TO THE REV. JAMES HARVEY WILBUR

SOUTHERN OREGON'S FIRST EFFORT TOWARD HIGHER EDUCATION:

UMPQUA ACADEMY

The site that James Harvey Wilbur, Methodist minister, selected for Umpqua Academy was on a high bluff which provided a far-reaching view of the valley ranging from the North Umpqua River to the Camas Swale, now called the Sutherlin Valley. The bluff stands about 200 feet above the surrounding valley floor and can be seen on the east by drivers as they pass Wilbur going north on I-5. When Wilbur had secured Donation Land Claim #40 in Douglas County in the hills just east of J. L. Clinkinbeard donation land claim. Wilbur's property included the high ridge on which the Academy was built and some of the valley floor to the south. George and John Kuykendall actually built the second building assisted by Wilbur. Wilbur worked on the building six days a week and led Methodist church services on the seventh. The three felled trees, hauled logs, sawed them into lumber and built the Academy.

Wilbur donated 63 acres of his own land and a \$1000, and then went throughout Southern Oregon soliciting funds for the school which upon completion cost \$5000, a tidy sum in those days. The building was built without incurring debt.

Umpqua Academy, as it was officially named, was a premier Methodist educational institution. The first board of trustees for Umpqua Academy was elected by the Methodist Conference in 1855. Members of the board were J. H. Wilbur, C. C. Reed, George P. Burdell, Willis Jenkins, Addison Flint, R. Hill, J. O. Rayner, William Royal and T. F. Royal. It was planned to be a preparatory academy funneling its graduates to Willamette University in Salem, and was the only institution of higher education between Salem, Oregon, and Sacramento, California. The 30' x 40' two story building completed in 1856 was painted white and gleamed brightly, making it possible to be seen from a distance of ten miles, and its bell could be heard for miles.

Umpqua Academy was chartered by the Oregon Territorial Legislature in 1857. It continued in operation until 1900 at which time the tax-supported public school ended as was delicately phrased "the necessity for its existence." At that time the Academy itself was sold to the Wilbur School District.

Principals at Umpqua Academy included men who became "a Supreme Court Justice, an Oregon governor, a Willamette University president, and a U. S. congressman. The first principal was the Rev. James H. B. Royal, assisted by his sister Mary.

After Rev. J. H. Wilbur founded the Umpqua Academy, located at what was then known as Bunton Gap, "the school . . . for a number of years was the leading institution of learning in Southern Oregon."

That building on the bluff was actually the second structure to house the Academy; the first was a log cabin built in 1854 and located near the present Methodist church in Wilbur and the existing pioneer parsonage, historically the first Methodist parsonage in Southern Oregon. The present parsonage is a pioneer replacement. George B. Kendall said the academy building was "standing like a great white sentinel against the tree-clad hill." That first log building had a "few rude pine desks, unpainted except by the ink we pupils spilled over them, and unadorned except by a few pictures drawn by our hands or carved with our knives" so said Robert A. Booth, student.

The Rev. J. H. Wilbur was a busy man. He also founded Portland Academy; was a trustee of Willamette University; physically built the first church in Walla Walla, Washington; and the first Methodist church in Portland. He became the Yakama Indian agent by direct appointment by President Lincoln after Wilbur met with Lincoln and exposed the corruption of the former agent. James Harvey Wilbur continued his efforts to improve the lives of the residents of both Oregon and Washington until the day of his death on October 28, 1887, at the age of 76. He died from pneumonia just 28 days after the death of his wife Lucretia, and the 300 pound, six-foot-four-inch giant of a man was laid to rest beside his wife in the Jason Lee Mission Cemetery in Salem, Oregon.

FEWER THAN 4,000 NATIVE AMERICANS FROM WEST OF THE CASCADES STILL ALIVE ON RESERVATIONS IN 1856

In November 1856, a census taken at the Grand Ronde Reservation west of McMinnville revealed that a total of 1925 Native Americans were in residence on the reservation. Rogue River natives [including some other minor tribelets from the Rogue River area] numbered 909. Two hundred sixty-two were Shasta, Umpqua or Calapooyas, and some scattered band members from the Willamette Valley Kalapooyan tribes numbered 660. There was a discrepancy of 82 missing Indians with these numbers. [Neither the writer nor the editor can account for the discrepancy. Those were the figures in Carey's General History of Oregon] The 1837 that apparently actually were on the reservation were all from the intermountain valleys of Western Oregon.

In addition the coastal tribes, who were housed at the Siletz Reservation comprised 554 Rogue Rivers and Shastas, and 1495 from other tribes: Ioshutz, Chec-coos, Too-too-ta-ays, Mac-ca-noo-tangs, Coquille, Port Orford, Sixes, Flores Creek, Shasta-Costas and Yukers. Not counting hideout natives and those who had wandered away from the reservations, only about 4000 Native Americans remained living after 30 some years west of the Cascade settlement by American pioneers. Most of the natives died from various diseases: flu, malaria, smallpox, mumps, measles, chicken pox, venereal diseases, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and diphtheria. Apparently, most of the childhood diseases were nonexistent on the West Coast prior to white pioneer settlement with families.

Also, it is likely that most Native Americans in the West did not have the antibodies for these childhood diseases and suffered dramatically from them. Other contributing factors compounded the physical problems: malnutrition, stress and the various emotional problems, certainly depression, that was created by the loss of hunting and collecting areas, the decline of fish runs due to placer mining, confiscation of the prime food collecting areas by white farmers, the loss of housing due to deliberate destruction by some white settlers, and similar social and cultural complications . . . like why have the gods forsaken us!

[The statistics in this story were taken from Charles H. Carey, historian, General History of Oregon.]

TINY FORT VANCOUVER BECOMES HEADQUARTERS FOR HUDSON BAY IN 1825

The transformation of tiny Fort Vancouver into the massive headquarters of the Hudson Bay Company in the Northwest began in 1825 with the arrival of Dr. John McLoughlin. Completed in 1826, Fort Vancouver included an extensive farm, factories, warehouses, homes, barracks, a chapel, and medical facilities. Until the mid-to-late 1830s, the Hudson Bay Company was the only source of imported supplies, manufactured goods, trade, transport, and manpower west of the American fur trade post at Green River, Wyoming. Under McLaughlin's leadership, the fort extended aid, loans, and trade to American missionaries and settlers as well as to the ex-employees and members of the Hudson Bay Company.

COFFEE CUP AND SET

In pioneer days, a coffee cup set included the cup, the saucer and a third piece--a small plate about half the diameter of the saucer. It was used to place the cup on after some of the coffee had been poured into the saucer so that it would be cool enough to drink. This act was referred to as "saucering and blowing." The saucer itself was deeper and more of a cupped shape than the ones now in use. When people began to sip from the cup, the third piece of the set no longer was provided, and the extra small saucer has disappeared from the china world.

Florence Aiken Banks, WPA Interview, 1938

OREGON PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT MINTED ITS OWN GOLD COINS

Oregon's provisional government (established before Oregon became a territory) minted its own money. The Oregon-minted gold pieces were made in a mint in Oregon City in 1848. The coins were \$5.00 and \$10.00 denomination. These had the likeness of a beaver engraved on them, commemorating the fur trade that sparked the first move into Oregon by Astor and by Hudson Bay. These coins were called "Beaver Coins" and provided Oregonians with a medium of exchange for the first time. In 1854, after becoming a territory and after California became a territory, these "Beaver coins" were removed from circulation and redeemed at face value by the U. S. government mint at San Francisco.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS

In January we welcomed three new members: Don and Carol Muir of Central Point, Ore., and Martha Joseph of Santa Rosa, Calif.

Joe Cowley has agreed to be our volunteer historian and has been hard at work doing taped oral histories. We really appreciate all his good help and the great stories he can tell.

Continued from page 10

Then things changed. Sears and Roebuck used their catalog and rural free delivery of the mail to get undreamed of manufactured items delivered to the mail box in front of your home or at the post office. World War I sent young men and some women off to Europe, some of whom had just returned from the Alaska gold fields. World War II sent even more young men off to Europe, Africa, Australia, and Asia. By 1950 some fifty percent of the residents were newcomers to the state of Oregon. The old pioneer families quickly became submerged in a flood called population growth. Today computer owners may know more about people thousands of miles away than they do about their next door neighbors.

As Daniel Robertson, director of the Douglas County Museum of History and Natural History from 1983 to 1997, wrote recently, "The challenge which the century has left us is ...to preserve and redevelop our sense of community. For despite all our technology, conveniences and material wealth, it is the people who surround us in our towns and communities that will assure us pleasure and security in the 21st Century."

A meaningful life is created by the ties we have with our friends, our neighbors and with our families. In a broader sense, the strength of our community and our relationship to it and to its past make the uncertain future comprehensible and enduring.

We, as an historical society, seek to foster and strengthen these essential ties that make life in our corner of Jackson County understandable. Do join us in this effort by becoming a member of the Talent Historical Society, or since we are a twin community with Phoenix, join both the Talent society and the Phoenix Historical Society. Help build a future that honors the past. Join us as we try to preserve local history, protect irreplaceable historical artifacts, conduct historical interviews, and collect historical documents, diaries, and letters. We seek to enhance the appreciation of the past by sharing the stories of our area's development. Our past colors the future we are yet to see. Join us by calling 512-8838 for more details. The museum is open five days a week featuring a revolving historical exhibit, a sales gallery, and research materials on local history. The board of directors meets at 1:30 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month in the Talent Library, and the meetings are open to the public.

DOWNSTREAM CALENDAR

"If we forget where we came from, we will never get to where we are going!"

Talent Historical Society Museum,
Talent Community Center.

Museum Open hours:

Mon.—Sat. 10:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.

March 8, 2001 Thursday 10:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Talent Library

JCHMA meeting.

March 11, 2001 Sunday 1:30 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the **Talent Historical Society** directors. Members and general public invited to attend.

March 18, 2001 Sunday Noon

Talent Community Center

Women's History Program, Chautauqua lecture, potluck luncheon.

April 8, 2001 Sunday 1:30 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the **Talent Historical Society** directors. Members and general public invited to attend.

May 5 & 6, 2001 Saturday & Sunday

Special display of a currency collection. Talent Community Center.

May 20, 2001 Sunday 1:30 p.m.

Talent Library.

Board meeting of the **Talent Historical Society** directors. Members and general public invited to attend.

THE SISKIYOU TRAIL: HUDSON BAY'S ROUTE TO CALIFORNIA

Twenty years before the Gold Rush to California, Hudson Bay Company trappers opened a route to California from the Columbia River by way of the Siskiyou Mountains. The Siskiyou Trail, their name for the route, which the American emigrants later called the California Trail (which is what the historical signs now read which are posted along the route) was 850 miles long, stretching from Fort Vancouver on the Columbia to Yerba Buena, the present city of San Francisco.

In time the pack train route, which the Hudson Bay brigades had laid out following old Indian trails as Hudson Bay tracked south each fall to sell furs and collect supplies, became a road. The road over the Siskiyous in southern Jackson County was traversed by gringo fur men, government explorers, cattle drovers, miners, horse thieves, settlers, and El Dorado-bound argonauts. (Dillon, p. 5)

In the 1850s, this line of communication became a major horse trail for pack trains supplying miners. It was also the primary mail route until Scottsburg on the Umpqua River became the major port in Oregon and the main supply depot for the Northern California and Southern Oregon mines. During the 1850s, the route became a wagon road. (Lindsay Applegate operated a toll road over the Siskiyous, portions of which can still be walked if landowners will let you do so). Then the Siskiyou Trail became a rugged turnpike for the Concord stage coaches with a stage stop about every twenty miles, sometimes more frequently. In 1887 the Siskiyou Trail became in many places the roadbed for the railway which still ties the two states of Oregon and California together, and today the old trail is closely paralleled by Interstate 5.

Early travelers described the Shasta-Siskiyou mountain complex as "Alps upon Alps." The trail ran closer to the Trinity Alps in Siskiyou County, California, than I-5 does today, for the Siskiyou Trail divided. A traveler could go down the Sacramento River like I-5 does today, or turn into the Scott River Valley west of Yreka and then go south on a route that ran through Weaverville and on to Shasta City (now a ghost town and tourist stop west of Redding) and then down the Sacramento River valley to San Francisco.

This article was inspired by reading Richard Dillon's Siskiyou Trail--The Hudson Bay Company Route to California. (San Francisco: McGraw-Hill Book Company, 1995) This book was one of the American Trail Series, edited by A. B. Guthrie, Jr., the Montana novelist.

EDITORIAL



FROM COMMUNITY TO COMMUNITY?

The 20th Century is gone. One hundred years ago Jackson County was a rural place. Most people lived in homes that had no electricity, no running water, no indoor plumbing, and no telephones. There were few automobiles; there were no tractors, and there were certainly no airplanes. To get somewhere there was the horse, the wagon, and the steam-powered railroad passenger train. Here in Jackson County, the primary occupations were farmer, orchardist or stockman.

No one in Jackson County in 1900 would have predicted the rise and decline of the timber industry which fueled the economy here in the mid-20th Century. No one would have expected an army training base in Agate Desert—Camp White. No one would have expected Ashland to become a nationally renowned center for education and theatre. No one would have thought that the spotted owl and the coho salmon would alter the Southern Oregon economy so dramatically.

To get in touch with someone, there was the letter and the postal system—with a post office in every conceivable crack and cranny of the state. In moments of extreme urgency, one could send a telegram. To know what was happening, there were newspapers—mostly local weeklies. No television or radio news which now provide instantaneous coverage of "breaking news" was even thought of. The only major corporations that touched the lives of Jackson County residents were the telegraph company and the "friendly" Southern Pacific railroad. Social life revolved around the church, the Grange, social and literary clubs, and the lodges.

Meat was purchased at a butcher shop (not the grocery store) if the animal itself wasn't run in from the pasture or shooed in from the chicken yard. Most necessities of life were produced at home except for items like shoes, fabric, and hardware which were often provided by the cobbler, the mercantile store, and the blacksmith.

Continued on page 8



TALENT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 582
TALENT, OREGON 97540-9766
(541) 512-8838 • talenth@jeffnet.org

Eagle Point Historical Society
PO Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524